

REMARKS

With regard to the new language added to claim 10 by amendment here, please refer to page 15, line 22 to page 16, line 4 and page 18, line 24 to page 19, line 8. Regarding new claim 19, the packaging material 281 in a web-like form is shown in Fig. 31 as carrying a plurality of attached caps spaced in a series as it exits the cap attachment station. Also see Fig. 33.

The rejection for indefiniteness as set forth in paragraph 3 of the office action is believed to be moot in light of the present amendments of claims 11, 13 and 14.

The objection to claim 17 as set forth in paragraph 4 of the office action has likewise been addressed by amendment of claim 17.

The rejection for anticipation by Hitoshi et al, set forth in paragraph 6 of the office action, is respectfully traversed on the basis that Hitoshi et al forms the blank into the shape of a “trunk” which is then folded flat prior to attachment of cap 5. See Fig. 5 of Hitoshi et al and the discussion thereof at the bottom of page 3 of the English translation. Further, claim 10 has now been amended by addition of recitation of a step “transporting a carrier sheet with a plurality of caps thereon to feed caps in succession to the cap attachment station.” Hitoshi et al disclose no comparable step.

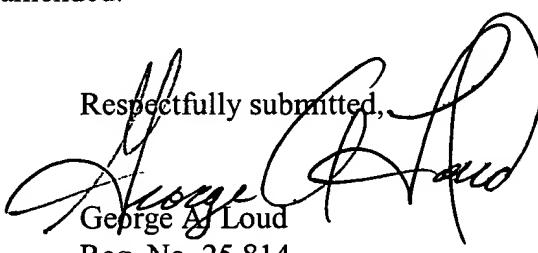
Likewise, the rejection of claims 13 and 16-18 for obviousness over Hitoshi et al in view of Kuzuki et al is believed to be obviated for the reasons noted above. Kuzuki et al is not cited for a disclosure of any of the features noted above as serving to distinguish the present invention from the method of Hitoshi et al and, indeed, Kuzuki et al contains no disclosure relevant to those distinctions.

The rejection of claim 15 for obviousness as set forth in paragraph 9 of the office action is likewise traversed. Claim 15 depends from claim 10 and incorporates the novel features serving to distinguish the recited method from Hitoshi et al as noted above. Weiteder has no relevance to any of those distinguishing features.

Newly added claims 19-21 serve to further distinguish the present invention from anything suggested by the combined teachings of the cited prior art.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,


George A. Loud
Reg. No. 25,814

Date: February 3, 2004
LORUSSO, LOUD & KELLY
3137 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305
(703) 739-9393